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GSU View

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News and Events

Convocation 2010

Governors State University is like “a strong sailing craft in increasingly troubled waters,” President Elaine P. Maimon said at Wednesday’s Convocation.

In her annual State of the University address, Dr. Maimon said GSU is making steady progress toward becoming a model university for the 21st century – even as Illinois struggles through the worst fiscal crisis in state history and its public universities are suffering from an ever declining level of support.



Despite severe challenges on the state level, GSU has recorded significant achievements during the past year, Dr. Maimon said. Among the bright spots:

- The Higher Learning Commission continued GSU’s accreditation through 2020.
- The university awarded its first doctoral degrees in June 2010.
- The Illinois Board of Higher Education and HLC approved a fourth doctoral degree program, in Counselor Education and Supervision.
- The university received \$16 million in federal grants that will be used for teacher training, Early Head Start, and training health care professionals.
- This fall, undergraduate student credit hours have increased 8.23 percent.
- With the awarding of new data processing contracts this year, and the start of the IRiS Project, GSU is undergoing a dramatic transformation of all key university functions.

Dr. Maimon announced that the Illinois Capital Development Board has given GSU the green light for the long-awaited renovation of the E and F science wings. The state has released \$23.5 million for the project and GSU has received an additional \$2.3 million from the National Science Foundation. “So, with over \$25 million to work with, we are building state of the art science teaching and research facilities for our students and our faculty,” she said. Construction is scheduled to begin early in the new calendar year.

Kathy Miller, Institutional Research Data Coordinator and former Civil Service Senate President, received this year’s Gerald C. Baysore Award, the university’s highest honor.

Dr. Maimon presented Excellence Awards to three faculty members: Taida Kelly, Assistant Professor in the College of Education; Marilyn Yirku, Academic Coordinator of Communication Programs in the College of

Arts and Sciences; and Daniel Nearing, Academic Coordinator of Independent Film and Digital Imaging Program, in CAS.



Miller



Kelly



Yirku



Nearing

Sweet Campaign

It is very sweet that members of the GSU community have the opportunity to support the many facets of the university - from the scholarship funds to The Center for Performing Arts - through the Campus Community Campaign.

The annual campaign kicks on Thursday, September 16, at noon, in the cafeteria with music and sweet treats. A dessert bar, open to participants, will be offered in the cafeteria annex. Qualified new and continuing donors will receive a sweet gift from the GSU Foundation.

For more information, contact [Jackie Small](#) at ext. 2188.

Provost Forum – Sept. 23

Join Provost Terry Allison for an informative discussion on academic matters and other university-wide topics.

All members of the GSU community are invited to attend the Student, Faculty, and Staff Forum on Thursday, September 23, from 2 to 3 p.m., in Sherman Music Hall.

Great Idea!



Good ideas submitted to *Why Not?* get implemented. Best ideas submitted to *Why Not?* earn implementation, public recognition, \$100, a lunch, and a cake.

Dr. Anthony Andrews of CBPA was recognized for his winning *Why Not?* suggestion, which was to create a backdrop with the GSU logo so it can be used at public events and announcements to help further university name recognition. Dr. Andrews idea has already been put to good use. The backdrop was unveiled at Convocation.

At a brief ceremony in the cafeteria, Dr. Maimon acknowledged both Dr. Andrew's excellent idea and his generosity. Dr. Andrews donated his \$100 prize to the GSU student scholarship fund. Joining Dr.

Andrews and Dr. Maimon at lunch were Dr. Terry Allison, Provost, and Dr. Sandra Mayfield, Assistant Provost and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the *Why Not?* program.



Everyone present in the cafeteria was invited to enjoy a piece of cake and to submit their good ideas to *Why Not?*.

GSU Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

A number of Hispanic Heritage Month events at GSU are taking place between now and October 15. The annual celebration will feature music, food, a Distinguished Lecture, and other activities.

- During the Flag Contest, the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee invites you to test your knowledge. Entry forms are available at the Welcome Center; completed entries must be received no later than September 30.
- On Thursday, September 16, the Latin American Countries Poster Presentation and Taste of Latin America will take place from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.
- On Wednesday, September 22, from 5 to 6:15 p.m., Latin Dance with Maribel Vazquez is slated for the Hall of Governors. Learn new moves and have some fun.
- Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz of DePaul University will present a Distinguished Lecture on *The State of Latinos in Higher Education* on Tuesday, September 28, at 5 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.
- On Thursday, September 30, the ALAS Club will sponsor a taco sale from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.
- On Tuesday, October 5, Mexican folk dancers will perform from 4:30 to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors.
- A program on Wednesday, October 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall, will examine the influence of Latin music and the history of Hispanic contributions to music. The program will include a live performance by a Latin music group.

Hispanic Heritage Month activities are sponsored by Student Life, Association of Latino American Students, and the Latino Center for Excellence.

New IRB Leadership



Dr. Robert Druzinsky recently announced that he will step down as co-chair of GSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) to devote more time to scholarship. Druzinsky assisted in the process of securing the first Federal Wide Assurance for the IRB and has played a key role in addressing Federal compliance and human subjects' protection. Thanks to Robert for his many years of service.

Effective immediately, Dr. James "Chip" Coldren will act as co-chair of the IRB, with current IRB co-chair Dr. Becky Nugent, Coordinator of the Writing Center. Coldren is the Academic Coordinator for the university's Criminal Justice programs and is co-director of the GSU's Center for Law Enforcement Technology Collaboration. Nugent is the coordinator of GSU's Writing Center.

2010 Restorative Justice Week

Restorative Justice comes to Governors State University during a weeklong series of informative presentations. Demonstrations and discussions will define restorative justice and explain how it works, how to initiate restorative justice practices, victim offender conferencing and the peer jury, and its importance in helping create more effective conflict resolution procedures in schools, at home, at work, and in communities.

Presentations are from September 20 through 23, from 3 to 4:20 p.m., in the Cafeteria Annex. Each presentation is free and open to the public. Advance registration is not necessary.

Restorative Justice week is sponsored by a grant from the GSU Intellectual Life Committee. For more information, contact Joanne Smith at ext. 2233.

New Deal Films

Two classic documentaries from the New Deal era will be presented Wednesday, September 22, at 4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

The River (1938) and *The City* (1939) are the first films to be shown as part of a GSU film series, *Archiving the 1930s: Art, Politics, and Early Documentary Filmmaking*. Additional film screenings are planned during the series.

Running time for the two films is 75 minutes. Dr. Christopher White of the English Department will introduce the films and lead the discussion after the screening. Refreshments will served.

The film series is coordinated by Dr. White and Dr. Rosemary Johnsen of CAS, and funded by an Intellectual Life Grant.

Constitution Day Conversation

Constitution Day will be observed with a panel discussion, *Controversies in the Constitution*, on September 20, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., in Engbretson Hall.

Panelists include GSU faculty members Dr. Chelsea Haring, assistant professor of Social Sciences; Dr. Will Kelley, Assistant Professor of Political and Justice Studies; and Dr. James “Chip” Coldren, academic coordinator of Criminal Justice program. Dr. Larry Levinson, director of the University Honors program and academic coordinator of Political and Justice Studies, will contribute and moderate the discussion.

This event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and Student Life. For more information, call ext. 4552.

GSU Distinguished Lecture

The GSU Distinguished Lecture Series presents Dr. Elizabeth Ortiz on Tuesday, September 28, from 5 to 7 p.m., in Engbretson Hall. Dr. Ortiz, Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Equity at DePaul University, will discuss *The State of Latinos in Higher Education*. The lecture is being presented as part of Hispanic Heritage Month.

An expert with more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Elizabeth F. Ortiz was promoted to vice president for Institutional Diversity and Equity in 2006 after serving as senior executive for institutional diversity for four years.

This event is free and open to the public.

A Green Revolution

Chemical Reaction: The Story of a True Green Revolution will be presented Saturday, October 2, at 1 p.m. in Sherman Hall. The film explores how the elimination of lawn pesticides transformed one Canadian community and impacted the chemical lawn care industry in North America.

The film is sponsored by GSU, the Park Forest Environmental Commission, and the Thorn Creek Audubon Society. GSU students with a university ID can attend the screening for free. A \$10 donation from other viewers is requested.

A panel discussion on natural lawn care will follow the film screening.

Tasty Culture

Taste the culture and history of the Caribbean on October 5, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., in E Lounge.

The College of Arts and Sciences is sponsoring a presentation by Ann Marie Webster, former educator in Jamaica. Learn how culture, food, and history are connected. Taste three traditional Jamaican dishes, and view *Life and Debt*, a documentary film on the impact of the IMF, the World Bank, and current globalization policies in Jamaica.

This event is sponsored by a grant from the GSU Intellectual Life Committee. For more information, contact [Dr. Elizabeth Johnson](#) at ext. 7531.

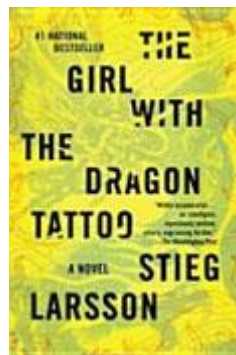
Education Speakers Bureau

In order to foster a more collaborative relationship with the local school districts in GSU's service area, the College of Education is creating an Education Speakers Bureau. Regional schools and school districts interested in a speaker or a specific topic will be able to tap into the expertise of a GSU faculty member. Speakers will appear free of charge.

Anyone who wishes to be a member of the Education Speakers Bureau should contact [Dr. Joseph J. Matula](#) with the following information: topic of speech, target audience, length of the presentation, and contact information.

For more information on the program, contact [Dr. Matula](#) at ext. 2122.

Get Inked



Get ready for international mystery and intrigue with this fall's One Book, One University program. One Book, One University will feature *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson.

A panel of faculty and staff experts will discuss this New York Times Bestseller on Wednesday, October 13, from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m., in Sherman Hall. Provost Terry Allison will moderate the panel which includes Rosemary Johnsen (CAS), David Green (CBPA), Cheryl Mejhta (CHHS), Shannon Dermer (COE), and Tom Houlihan (Institutional Advancement and a former newspaper editor).

Panel members will discuss the book's themes from the perspective of their subject expertise, followed by questions, and an open conversation with the audience. Join the conversation!

One Book, One University is sponsored by GSU's Intellectual Life Committee.

Three Art Shows

Jeff Stevenson, university lecturer, will present his artwork at three Chicago-area galleries in coming weeks.

Splitting Squares, at the Christopher Gallery at Prairie State College in Chicago Heights, opens with a Thursday, October 7 reception, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The exhibition continues through November 4.

Stevenson's work will displayed at Jackson Junge Gallery, 1389 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. A reception is scheduled for Friday, October 8, from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibition continues through November 7. The Regional University and College Art Faculty Exhibition at GSU's Visual Arts Gallery opens with a reception on a Wednesday, October 13, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The exhibition continues through October 28.



Man's Ideal by Jeff Stevenson

Twenty Questions, Plus One - Kyla Darling

Kyla Darling, Office of the Registrar

- **Who was your most inspirational teacher?** Mrs. Handler, my high school teacher. Mrs. Handler believed in me, encouraged me, and molded me into the person that I am today.
- **What is your favorite yearly event at GSU?** Civil Service Day
- **A really great night out for me is...** Walking along the lakefront with that special someone.
- **My favorite spot in the Chicago area is...** Dining at Fornello Trattoria Italian restaurant.
- **Right now I am driving a...** 2007 Toyota Camry
- **At the end of the day, I like to listen to...** Smooth Jazz
- **My five all-time favorite movies are...** *Purple Rain* (saw it twice), *Medea Goes to Jail*, *Drag Me To Hell*, *Coming to America*, and *Avatar*.
- **What was your first job?** Jewel Food Store
- **What's a vacation spot you'd recommend to others?** Hawaii
- **Have you ever kept a New Year's resolution? Explain.** Nope. I tried my best, but just couldn't do it.



The Final Question: Tell us something about yourself that hardly anyone on campus knows. I'm an award-winning videographer.

To participate in GSU View's Twenty Questions Plus One, contact [Tom Houlihan](#).

Early Head Start for Babies and Infants

The Family Development Center (FDC) at Governors State University has positions open for infants, toddlers, and their parents to enroll in the new Early Head Start program.

The funding for the Early Head Start program at GSU comes from a two-year \$1.7 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. According to Carol Morrison, Executive Director of the Family Development Center, the grant will enable Governors State University to serve 72 families from Will County.

The Early Head Start program at GSU is a free, comprehensive program for low-income families. It provides specialized support services to qualified pregnant mothers and children, up to their third birthday, who live in Will County, south of Joliet.

A key component of the Early Head Start program is the childcare services provided to parents who are working or in school, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Additional services of the program include a prenatal program for pregnant women, home visits from a child development specialist, educational opportunities for pregnant women and parents, and support services linking families to social services in the community.

For more information about the Early Head Start Program at the GSU Family Development Center, call 708.235.7300 or visit www.govst.edu/children.

Hispanic Heritage - Little-Known Facts

Horacio Rivero of Puerto Rico was the first Hispanic American to become a four-star admiral. He achieved his four-star status in 1964.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, Student Life is providing little-known facts about the contributions of Hispanics in the United States.

